



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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BAT FOUND IN BRUNSWICK NEAR MARC TRAIN STATION TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES

FREDERICK, MD – On June 6, 2016, the Frederick County Health Department received information from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Rabies Laboratory that a bat found on a sidewalk in Brunswick tested positive for the rabies virus. The bat was originally noticed around 7:15 am and picked up by Frederick County Animal Control around 8:45 am on Friday morning, June 3, 2016, in front of the American Legion across from the MARC Train Station in Brunswick.

The Health Department recommends that anyone who may have had contact with the bat consult their health care provider and notify the Health Department (Community Health Services Office) at 301-600-3342. If any pets had contact with the bat, consult with your veterinarian and notify the Health Department (Environmental Health Office) at 301-600-1717.

Rabies is a viral disease that primarily infects mammals (warm-blooded animals who nurse their young) and is spread through the saliva of the infected animal, usually via bite. The disease is nearly always fatal to humans. Symptoms of rabies in animals may include fear of water, limping, failure to eat or drink, excessive salivation, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime.

Barry Glotfelty, Director for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services, advises the public, "To protect your family from possible rabies exposure, do not touch or play with wild or stray animals and make sure that your pets are currently vaccinated". If a stray animal comes on your property, do not attempt to contain it. If you or your pets have contact with a stray or wild animal you should call Animal Control at 301-600-1544 to speak with an Animal Control Officer.

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